

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10
ARA-10 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 /159 W
-----061848 181758Z /47

R 181722Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0272
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
SECDEF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12667

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

GENEVA FOR SALT AND CCD DELS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, CCD, UN, FR
SUBJ: FRENCH-SOVIET BILATERAL ON DISARMAMENT

REFS: A. STATE 096842 (NOTAL). B. STATE 087812 (NOTAL).
C. STATE 93307 (NOTAL).

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FRENCH DISARAMENT COORDINATOR,
TAITTINGER, DESCRIBED SOVIET POSITION ON FRENCH DIS-
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ARMAMENT PROPOSALS AS AMBIVALENT: SOVIETS ARE PLEASED
BY NEW FRENCH INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT BUT RELUCTANT
TO ENDORSE FRENCH PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY. ACTION
REQUESTED: SEE LAST PARAGRAPH.

2. ON APRIL 17 I CALLED ON FRENCH DISARMAMENT COORDI-
NATOR, PIERRE CHRISTIAN TAITTINGER, TO ASK FOR A

DEBRIEFING ON HIS BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS IN MOSCOW MARCH 24-25. I NOTED THAT DURING AMBASSADOR WARNKE'S VISIT TAITTINGER HAD TOLD US THAT HE WOULD SHARE WITH US THE RESULTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS.

3. TAITTINGER SAID THAT HE FOUND THE SOVIETS OF TWO MINDS. THE SOVIETS ARE PLEASED THAT THE GOF IS TAKING AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL, BUT FIND THE FRENCH PROPOSALS SOMEWHAT DISCOMFORTING. THE TALKS IN MOSCOW HAD RUN LONGER THAN THE FRENCH HAD EXPECTED AND THE SOVIETS HAD ASKED FOR AN ADDITIONAL SESSION ABOVE THAT WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED. THE SOVIETS SEEMED TO BE INTRIGUED BY THE FRENCH PROPOSALS, DID NOT APPEAR TO REJECT THEM OUT OF HAND, BUT DISPLAYED A PRUDENT RESERVE.

4. CONCERNING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF A NEW DISARMAMENT ENTITY LINKED TO THE UN, THE SOVIETS HAD REACTED BY DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF CCD REFORM. TAITTINGER WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT THE SOVIETS DID NOT MAKE THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP A POINT OF CONTENTION. THE SOVIETS STATED THAT THEY DID NOT SEE HOW A NEW ENTITY WOULD FUNCTION. THEY PREFER TO STICK TO WHAT THEY HAVE, BUT INDICATED FLEXIBILITY ON CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE. TAITTINGER BELIEVED THE SOVIETS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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INFLUENCED ON THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE BY THE POSITION OF THE SMALLER CCD MEMBERS WHO ARE SEEKING A CHANGE. IN ADDITION, THE SOVIETS DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE US WOULD BE FIRM IN PROTECTING THE INSTITUTION. THE SOVIETS SAID THEY WERE ATTACHED TO THE CURRENT FORM AND PROCEDURES OF THE CCD, BUT ARE WILLING TO ADD A FEW CAREFULLY CHOSEN COUNTRIES. THE SOVIETS WANTED NO STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE CCD AND EXPRESSED NO INTEREST IN A CLOSER LINK TO THE UN.

5. THE SOVIETS WERE VERY RESERVED ON THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE VERIFICATION AGENCY. THE SOVIETS DID NOT SEEM TO FIND THE IDEA OF SHARING SATELLITE INFORMATION VERY ATTRACTIVE. TAITTINGER SAID THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD MOVE ON THIS ISSUE ONLY IF THE US MADE A GESTURE TOWARD ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF THE PROPOSAL, OR SUGGESTED THAT EXPERTS MEET TO DISCUSS THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSAL.

6. THE SOVIETS REJECTED THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND BASED ON HIGH LEVELS

OF ARMAMENTS. THE SOVIETS INDICATED NO OPENING ON THIS ISSUE, BUT PROPOSED INSTEAD THEIR OLD IDEA FOR LOWERING MILITARY BUDGETS.

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R 181722Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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INFO USMISSION USUN
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7. IN DISCUSSING THE FRENCH IDEA FOR A EUROPEAN DIS-
ARMAMENT CONFERENCE, THE SOVIETS WENT ON AT LENGTH
ABOUT THE VIRTUES OF MBFR. THE SOVIETS ENDORSED
CBMS BUT SAID THAT THEY SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED IN OTHER
FORUMS. THE SOVIETS OBJECTED TO THE FRENCH PROPOSAL
THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD ADDRESS A ZONE STRETCHING
FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE URAL MOUNTAINS. THE SOVIETS
SUGGESTED THAT AMERICAN FORCES IN THE US WHICH COULD
BE DEPLOYED TO EUROPE WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED. THE
SOVIETS ASKED WHY SUCH A CONFERENCE SHOULD BE LIMITED

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TO CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND ASKED WHICH ONES WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOVIETS SAID THAT IF SUCH A CONFERENCE APPEARS LIKELY TO MATERIALIZE, THEY WOULD REEXAMINE THEIR POSITION. TAITTINGER CONCLUDED FROM THE LAST POINT THAT THE SOVIET POSITION WOULD DEPEND IN PART ON HOW MUCH THE FRENCH PUSH THE CONFERENCE.

8. TAITTINGER ADDED THAT EARLIER THAT DAY (APRIL 17) THE SOVIETS HAD PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL BILATERAL BETWEEN EXPERTS TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE FRENCH PROPOSALS AND THE SSOD. I ASKED TAITTINGER IF THE SOVIETS HAD MENTIONED PRC PARTICIPATION IN ARMS CONTROL. TAITTINGER REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF PRC PARTICIPATION IN EITHER A NEW ARMS CONTROL ENTITY, OR THE CCD. THE SOVIETS HAD POINTED OUT THAT THE CCD OPERATES BY CONSENSUS AND THAT IF THE PRC PARTICIPATED, NO CONSENSUS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. TAITTINGER CONTINUED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE OUTLINED THEIR PROPOSALS TO THE PRC EMBASSY HERE, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT. THE PRC HAS SAID THAT IT WILL SEND A SPECIALIST TO PARIS TO DISCUSS ARMS CONTROL. TAITTINGER ADDED THAT THE PRC DOES NOT PLAN TO LEAVE THE STAGE AT THE SSOD ENTIRELY TO THE SOVIETS, BUT PLANS TO SPEAK AT THE SSOD AND PROBABLY ATTACK THE USSR AND THE US.

9. IN CLOSING, TAITTINGER SAID THAT THE GOF WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS WITH US EXPERTS THE MERITS OF AN INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE VERIFICATION AGENCY. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON ON WHETHER THE US IS INTERESTED IN TALKS WITH THE FRENCH AT THE EXPERT LEVEL ON THE SATELLITE AGENCY PROPOSAL.

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Message Attributes

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